erected at Calside, Paisley, by the Abbey Board, has been contracted for, says the *Reformer's Gazette*, by the following tradesmen:—The mason-work by Mr. William Bowes, Paisley; joiner do., J. Lamb and Son, Greenock; slater do., Mr. Wm. Gillespie, Paisley; plumber do., Mr. J. Gilmour, Paisley; plaster do., Mr. Andrew Mitchell. Architect, Mr. J. Lamb.

RIGHT OF ARBITRATORS TO COPY DRAWINGS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA-HOUSE, COVENT-GARDEN.

Sir,—In a personal matter I should best consult my own feelings in abstaining from asking for a space in your valuable columns, which you might otherwise fill with some subject of greater interest to your readers, but as an imputation has been made against my professional character in a charge brought against me by Mr. Albano, in your last week's journal, I have to request the favour of your insertion of a few words in reply.

Upon the matter of reference of Mr. Albano's accounts, in which I acted as umpire, it is impossible for me to say one word, but with regard to that part of Mr. Albano's letter complaining of my having, in his opinion, improperly caused traced copies of some of his drawings to be made, I beg to say that I am not disposed to enter on the discussion of the abstract right of an umpire to copy drawings produced in the course of any reference. In this case I acted under legal advice; and if the steps I have thought proper to take I have done nothing whatever derogatory to my character as an architect or a gentleman.—I am, Sir, &c., Sam. Angell.

18, Gower-street, Feb. 28, 1849.

WORKS AT BEVERLEY.

The great window and the west end of the church of St. Mary being in an unsafe condition, it was resolved to have it restored. The cost of the restoration of the window, west front, doorway, and turrets, was estimated at about 1,000*l.*, and this the churchwardens hoped to effect by the funds of the church in two years, at the rate of 500*l.* a-year. To restore the window with common glass would have cost about 50*l.*; but Mr. Pugin proposed to put in superior stained glass for 300*l.*, and furnished a design, which was approved of by the parishioners and also by the Architectural Society. The necessary sum has been subscribed, and it is expected that the window will be restored and the painted glass put in during the present year. The subject of the design is our Saviour and the twelve apostles, with the patron saint of the church, filling the fourteen compartments of the window. One or more of the nave windows, it is expected, will be restored and decorated in a similar way.

The church of St. Mary, Beverley, as remarked by the correspondent to whom we are indebted for the above particulars "is well worth the attention of every one who admires or appreciates beautiful design and execution, and it is lamentable, here as elsewhere, to observe how little the decay of centuries has been arrested, and how dilapidated the structure has become. Here, however, there has been no daubing or defacing, and although there is much to restore there is little to pull down."

A site has been secured in the centre of the town for a national school, for the united parishes of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and a design has been prepared by Mr. Pearson, of London, architect. Subscriptions are in progress to defray the cost, which is estimated at 5711. 10s., exclusive of site 455*l.* Of the whole sum, about 300*l.* only remains to be made up by contributions, in aid of which a bazaar is about to be held. The design is satisfactory.

To Restore Oak.—A few weeks since a correspondent asked for something that would restore oak to its original whiteness. I have often used, with success, 2 oz. oxalic acid dissolved by friction in one quart of cold water. If the oak has been varnished it must be scraped clean before using the acid.—G. C.

ENCROACHMENT ON THE NEW ROAD.

Sir,—On looking into the current number of The Builder, I was greatly surprised to find your correspondent, "C. E.," attacking the official referees on the ground, if I understand him rightly, that they, in common with the magistrates, were lending their aid to infringements of the Act of Parliament, 7 Geo. 3, to the extent of authorising buildings to be brought forward, so as to reduce the New Road to a less width than that statute prescribes and requires that it should be. A serious charge this: but your correspondent must surely be in error, as from all I know of the proceedings of this body, they have been found—to the sore discomfiture of many—to be strict conservators of the metropolitan streets and roads, be such streets and roads ever so wide; and I cannot help thinking that if the charge were to be inquired into, it would be found that when the Central Board "*defined* (found?) the line of frontage of two public buildings as being 50 feet back from the footway," they were doing their best to revive and uphold the Act of Parliament above mentioned, and that it would be further found that they have not, and moreover could not—if they had the will to do so—have given any decision or performed any other official act that could in any way lessen or abridge the provisions of that Act, and I should incline to the supposition that any *resolution* which they have come to (if they have come to any such resolution as "C. E." describes), must have reference to localities to which no statutory restrictions that would have the effect of imposing prohibitions against the erection of any inclosed projections before a house, other than the shop front of ordinary projection, do apply or ought to be applied: and it would appear strange, if the "two private buildings" referred to by "C. E." are being erected in the New Road in consequence of any such resolution, that similar erections, long ago devoutly wished, are not being consummated in the various other roads over which the Act, 7 Geo. 3, *has no control*, and which, as I had supposed, were lying under the ban of the official referees. Such Critic.

Books.

The Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art, exhibiting the most important discoveries and improvements of the past Year. By John Timbs, Editor of "The Arcana of Science and Art." London. Bogue.

"The industrious ants of science," said Lord Northampton, at a meeting of the British Association, "laboriously bring to her granaries their numerous though small additions; and, in truth, accumulate facts destined for materials for the greater minds, that reason and systematize." For many years has Mr. Timbs, who quotes this on his title-page, quietly played the ant, for the advantage of the public, when he might, if he had pleased, have taken a more assuming part; and much is due to him for the good he has done in that capacity. As the original editor of the old "Mirror," he is perhaps best known to many of our readers, and now in connection with the widely-circulated "Illustrated News," the public have weekly the advantage of his intelligence and ability without knowing it.

The present "Year-Book," which consists of valuable facts extracted from the periodicals of the day, not forgetting our own, which furnishes its full share, is illustrated with a portrait of Sir David Brewster, and forms an excellent present-book for the young of either sex, which they cannot open without picking up something useful.

Archæologia Hibernica. A Hand-Book of Irish Antiquities, Pagan and Christian: especially of such as are easy of access from the Irish Metropolis. By W. F. Wakeman. Dublin, M'Glashan; London, Orr and Co.

Every person interested in architectural antiquities, who visits Ireland, should possess himself of this little hand-book, which is nicely illustrated, and very sensibly put together. Nor is its value confined to those who are about to visit the green island; those who are not able to go there will find in it much to interest them. Ireland contains an extraordinary series of monuments, commencing from a very ancient date, which are much less known than they deserve to be.

Marshall's Index Ready Reckoner, for the Calculation of Wages. London: Longman and Co.

This little work is especially adapted to the use of railway contractors and other parties employing a number of hands, and who require expedition in calculating the amount due to each. The calculations advance by quarters of a day, from one quarter to thirty days, at rates from one shilling to five shillings. A marginal index shows at once the page to be turned to, and adds much to the value of the work.

Taylor's Builders' Price-Book, corrected to the Year 1849. Edited by Edward Cresy, Architect. London: Taylor, Wellington-street.

The new edition of this long-established price-book, edited by Mr. Cresy, contains, in addition to its ordinary information, the Public Health Act, in full; notes upon it, and a number of new tables of considerable value.

Mr. Taylor has published the Health Act separately in a convenient form.

Miscellanea.

The Sewage Manure Company.—The secretary of this company wishes it to be stated that the resolution in their favour actually passed by the Commissioners of Sewers, is as follows:—"Resolved, that saving all the jurisdiction and rights of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, facilities be given to the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company, for carrying out their experiments completely, by allowing them to take sewer water of a stronger quality than that chosen, viz., the Counters Creek Sewer." The secretary thinks that our report of the resolution come to by the Court of Sewers (p. 69 *ante*), is calculated to damage the company, and though we are disposed to think he greatly overrates the difference, we willingly give the company all the advantage which the words of the resolution may be to them. We shall be glad to find this company seriously at work. Anxious as we are to further every effort to prevent the future defilement of the Thames, and to turn the sewage of the metropolis to its proper use, we have never found ourselves able to advocate warmly the interests of this company. They have never appeared to see their way, and we very much doubt if they do so yet. We shall be glad to be undeceived.

The Closed-door Business of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers.—Sir: I am happy to find that the "hole and corner" proceedings of the new commission have attracted attention, and drawn forth the remarks contained in your last number. It certainly does appear strange that a body professing the most unbounded regard for the public interests, and having in their hands so large a sum of the public money, should so closely imitate the worst features of some of the former Commissions of Sewers, by transacting nearly the whole of their business, involving the outlay of several thousands of pounds, with closed doors. It is true, that the amount is mentioned in the open court required for certain works,—not for the sake of information, but merely to give it a formal legality, and this is done in so brief and hurried a manner, as to appear to the commissioners almost "like a thrice-told tale." No reason for it is given, no information is conveyed as to its necessity; but merely this or that "committee" recommend it. A late member of the House of Commons once remarked,—"If I wish a snug job to be done, give me a select committee." That this remark may not apply to the present Metropolitan Commission of Sewers is the earnest hope and desire of—

One amongst them.

*** A long debate on this subject took place at a meeting of the commissioners on the 1st instant, but we are forced to postpone report of it.

To learn about PDF Compression and OCR go to ThePaperlessOffice.org